

Meadow Park Groups Ask for Signal, Guard

(Story in Column 4)

Torrance

Press-Herald

Published semi-weekly Wednesday and Friday by King Williams Press, Inc. Entered as second class matter January 20, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, Under act of March 3, 1879.

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TO CALL US

Circulation OfficeDA 5-1515
AdvertisingDA 5-6060
Women's NewsDA 5-6380
News DepartmentDA 5-6060

Series II, Volume V, Number 32

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3238 Sepulveda Blvd., Torrance, California 90510—Friday, October 18, 1968

10c Per Copy By Carrier 50c Per Month
By Mail, \$18 per Year

20 PAGES



VISITING FIREMAN . . . Martin Ruano (left), a member of the Guatemala City, Guatemala, Fire Department, talks with Fireman Ruben Garnica of the Torrance Fire Department during a brief visit here this week. Ruano, on leave from his post for a year to study fire science in the United States, currently is studying English at Gardena High School. He hopes to visit other cities in the United States before returning to his post as head of District No. 4 in Guatemala City. Although Ruano was sent to this country by his department, he is paying his own way.

Blast at Wilmington Refinery Kills Three

Council Action Sought

Parents of children attending Meadow Park Elementary School want a traffic signal and a crossing guard at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and Lomita Boulevard.

And they will take their case to the Torrance City Council.

Mrs. Robert Sussman, acting chairman of a committee composed of representatives of three local groups, said a petition signed by 1,300 persons will be presented to the council.

THE PETITION asks the city to hire a crossing guard for the intersection now and to give top priority to the installation of a traffic signal. Mrs. Sussman said some 500 children must cross the street twice each school day.

The committee is composed of representatives of the Southwood Riviera Homeowners' Association, the Meadow Park PTA, and the Seaside Community Church of Christ.

City Traffic Engineer Arthur Horkay said the intersection is scheduled to get a signal, but installation is not planned until Lomita Boulevard is extended to Anza Avenue. That work is in the planning stages, he said.

HORKAY ALSO said his department has made a study of the intersection which shows the area does not meet minimum standards for hiring a crossing guard. But, added Horkay, "it is very close." The traffic engineer said he would not recommend hiring a new crossing guard for the intersection, but he suggested that a guard might be transferred from another location in the city (See **PROP.** 9, Page A-2) (See **GUARD.** Page A-2)



LIBRARY BONDS SOLD . . . City officials and officers of Wells Fargo Bank officially completed sale of \$1,550,000 in Torrance library bonds yesterday. On hand as the bank took delivery of the bonds were (from left) Robert D. Thomas, vice president and manager of Wells Fargo's new Del Amo-Torrance office, which will open in December; City Treasurer Thomas C. Rupert; Richard D. Jackson, senior vice president of the bank; and City Clerk Vernon W. Coil, shown signing one of the bonds. The bonds, which were purchased by a syndicate headed by Wells Fargo, will be reoffered to yield from 3.10 to 4.40 per cent. A net interest cost of 4.2628 per cent was offered by the bank to the city.

Fumes Injure Others

Three men were killed and 14 more were treated at a hospital Thursday after an explosion rocked the Dominguez Shell Oil Refinery, 20945 S. Wilmington Ave., Carson.

The injured, treated and released from Long Beach Memorial Hospital, included two Torrance men, Howard Brady, 34, of 1843 Santa Fe Ave., and Harry Scofield, 36, of 5323 Ruby Ave.

Dead on arrival at the hospital were John J. Ridlon, 36, of Buena Park; York Harriot, 26, of Hermosa Beach; and Graham Golson, 44, of Long Beach.

The blast, which occurred at 10:04 a.m., ruptured a pipe in a reboiler, spewing the corrosive liquid Phenol over a wide area. The 400-degree liquid emitted pungent fumes, which accounted for most of the injuries.

Shell spokesmen said late Thursday that no cause for the explosion had been determined.

Five units from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, led by Bn. Chief Wray Nansel, hosed down the blast area and those exposed to the fumes.

Others treated and released from the hospital were Commodore Wogoman, Charles R. Fox, Lee Irwin, Paul E. Jensen, Clarence E. Wall, and Darol Shimer, of Long Beach; Harold D. Tucker of Lawndale; Sam G. Gilley of Lakewood; John R. Kirby of Garden Grove; Woodson B. Bugbee of Hawaiian Gardens; Edward Casterlin of Paramount; and William Haney of Buena Park.

On Local Schools

Effects of Watson Measure Discussed

Effects of two propositions on the November ballot, Proposition T and Proposition 9, on education of Torrance youngsters were explained by Dr. Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent of business for the Torrance Unified School District, before 200 leaders of local civic organizations at a meeting of the Educational Council of Torrance.

Proposition T, Dr. Mattox explained, calls for continuation of the present tax ceiling of \$3.30 for another five years. Passage of the measure, he stated, would not

raise taxes, but would extend the present authorization which is due to run out in June.

Dr. Mattox pointed out that the board of education has demonstrated its fiscal responsibility during the past five years by never levying a higher tax rate than was absolutely necessary in any given year. "During the five-year period that the \$3.30 ceiling has been in existence, the highest tax rate ever levied was \$3.06 in 1965-66," he stated.

FAILURE of Proposition T, he pointed out, would mean that the tax maximum would drop to \$2.40 and present educational programs would be cut by \$3,000,000 a year. Currently, he stated, the district spends anywhere from \$40 to \$65 per student less than the Los Angeles County average.

Whereas passage of Proposition T would help maintain current educational levels in Torrance, passage of Proposition 9 would have the opposite effect, according to Dr. Mattox.

Under provisions of Proposition 9, he pointed out, schools would no longer be eligible for support from local property taxes. Instead, money for running the schools would all come from Sacramento in five years.

"If the state finances 100 per cent of local education, do we think they would be willing to maintain local control?" he asked. "I cannot conceive of it," he said.

ADDITIONALLY, he pointed out, Proposition 9 would put a halt to plans to modernize or upgrade school facilities by cutting back the school district's ability to sell bonds.

Pointing out that only 30 per cent of the property tax bill is paid by local homeowners, Dr. Mattox indicated that homeowners and renters would be faced with making up the balance of the tax deficit. "The two major sources of income at the state level at the present time are sales tax or income tax," Dr. Mattox said. "If either were to carry the full load, then personal income tax would go up 300 per cent" (See **PROP.** 9, Page A-2)

Transit System

Local, Express Feeders Identified by District

A comprehensive express and local feeder bus lines which will directly link residents throughout Los Angeles County with the 89 miles of Rapid Transit routes has been identified for the numerous cities and communities to be serviced.

Listing—for the first time—the areas to be served, and the tentative alignments along which the 164 new bus lines will operate en route to the 65 Rapid Transit stations, Southern California Rapid Transit District directors termed the combined rail-bus system — to be implemented should voters approve Proposition A Nov. 5—"an obvious major

breakthrough toward mobility." RTD President Don C. McMillan said the final routing of the feeder lines will be subject to consultation and review with the local communities.

TWENTY-NINE express feeder bus routes and 135 local feeder lines will complement the high-speed rail system extending from Long Beach to Reseda, El Monte to West Los Angeles, and from Los Angeles to the International Airport and the South Bay-Torrance area.

"While the District's rail-bus program makes provisions for the full system of

Study of Civic Center 'Overlay' Zone Slated

The city's Planning Commission has scheduled a study session to consider the possibility of creating a "Civic Center District" to ensure the development of compatible surrounding areas near the city complex.

The session will be held Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 7

p.m. in the City Council chambers.

The proposed district, which would include adjacent neighborhoods, would not change current zoning regulations. However, it would compel future developments to fit it with Civic Center surroundings and prevent the depreciation of property values, commissioners said.

Zone boundaries would be a line joining California and Emerald streets on the north, Felbar Avenue on the east, Opal Street on the

south, and Avis Avenue on the west. The boundaries would extend to the center of each street.

Some 100 homeowners were present at Wednesday's Planning Commission meeting to protest the proposed district.

Councilmen Meet With Teenagers

Four city councilmen attended a recent meeting of the Torrance Youth Council. Introduced by Chairman Lenny Schapira were Councilmen Jay Beasley, Ken Miller, William J. Uerkwitz, and Orin Johnson.

Two major programs were discussed at the meeting. The first is a library service for shut-ins. Torrance teenagers would pick up and deliver books for those unable to visit the library personally. The Youth Council is considering coordinating this program.

The second project concerns a program whereby students could ride in police cars to see how a policeman does his job. Council members agreed it would be an exciting experience and would help strengthen relations with the police.

Council, Trustees to Meet . . .

Both the Torrance Board of Education and the City Council have scheduled regular meetings next week. The school board will convene Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the district offices, 2335 Plaza del Amo. Councilmen will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the City Hall. Agendas for the school board session may be examined at any branch of the Torrance City Library.

Good Neighbor Award Due . . .

Presentation of the Torrance Family YMCA's 21st annual Good Neighbor Award will be made tomorrow at the annual Good Neighbor Breakfast. The breakfast, scheduled at the YMCA, 2900 W. Sepulveda Blvd., will get under way at 6 a.m., according to Ralph Marzutto, chairman. Highlight of the morning will be the naming of the Good Neighbor of 1968 and presentation of the Al (Pop) Turner trophy. Tickets for the breakfast will be available at the door.

Artist's Home Robbed . . .

The home of a Torrance silk screen artist was burglarized Wednesday evening to the tune of \$789. Police said intruders pried open a front bathroom window at the home of Tom H. Koonz, 30, of 20160 Reynolds Drive, taking a television set, a camera, two radios, two watches, a coin collection, and \$10 cash. The burglary took place sometime between 6:45 and 8:45 p.m. No suspects have been apprehended.

Youngster Rescued From Pool

A Torrance waitress and two teenage boys were credited with saving the life of a 2-year-old boy who had fallen into a backyard swimming pool Thursday.

Sean Maurer, 2, of 1324 W. 227th St., apparently wandered into the pool area of an apartment house at 1318 W. 227th St. about 9:15 a.m. and fell into the pool.

The youngster was pulled from the pool by two teenagers, Mike Busby, 17, and his 16-year-old brother Bobby, of 1318 W. 227th St. (See **RESCUE.** Page A-2)